

*Celebration of Life
For*

TONY L. PEELE



**Tuesday, January 6, 2004
11:00 AM**

**Bethany Baptist Church
275 West Market Street
Newark, New Jersey**

**Reverend M. William Howard, Jr., Pastor
Reverend Frank H. Walters, Jr., Officiating**

SHARPE JAMES

MAYOR

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

07102

January 2, 2004

Mrs. Carol Peele and Family
c/o Bethany Baptist Church
275 West Market Street
Newark, New Jersey 07103

Dear Mrs. Peele:

Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the loss of your beloved husband, Tony.

Tony Peele will always be remembered for his community service, his smiling face, caring nature, and his compassion for the less fortunate, especially children and youth.

His commitment to Newark and its residents was unwavering. He was truly admired by his family, friends and the community. Your beloved husband's wisdom and spirit will always remain in the hearts and minds of all who knew, loved, and respected him.

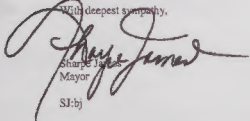
I hope you find solace in the fond memories that your husband left for you; his parents, Thomas and Ida, and his son Tony Jr., to cherish.

As a native Newarker, Tony will be remembered by all who knew him as outgoing, strong-willed and compassionate individual, who remained steadfast in his commitment to administer many nonprofit community agencies in our city.

Please know that you have the prayers of my family and those of the entire City of Newark during your time of bereavement.

May God bless, strengthen and keep you always in His care.

With deepest sympathy,



Sharpe James
Mayor

SI:bj



ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude Reverend James Johnson
Processional All Stand Except the Family
Hymn of Praise #27 - Blessed Assurance
Prayer of Comfort Reverend Frank H. Walters, Jr.
Spiritual "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" Kevin Maynor, Bass

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 37:1-7; 23:28 - Rev. Charles Thompson
New Testament - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - John 14:1-6 - Chaplain James Johnson

Resolutions

Poetry Reading

Maya Anderson - A Spiritual Prescription

Solo "Precious Lord" # 339 Kevin Maynor, Bass

Words of Reflection

Merrick Harris on behalf of the Peele Family
Robert Koehler, President Community Agencies Corp. of NJ
Dorothy Knauer, Interim Executive Director
Gary Thompson
Rebecca Doggett
Cathy Mc Farland, Executive Director Victoria Foundation
Other reflections

Acknowledgements

Obituary (Read Silently)

Solo "Amazing Grace" Kevin Maynor, Bass

Eulogy Reverend Frank H. Walters, Jr.

Closing Prayer

Recessional

Interment

Fairmount Cemetery, Newark, NJ

Repast

Family and friends are invited to return to the Bethany Baptist Church Fellowship Hall





OBITUARY

Tony L. Peele, a widely respected leader of youth and family services in Newark and across New Jersey, died on December 30, 2003. He was 53 years old.

As the Executive Director of the Community Agencies Corporation of New Jersey, an umbrella organization for several autonomous but inter-related non-profit corporations, Mr. Peele's personal magnetism and dedication to go the extra mile inspired a dedicated staff and thousands of volunteers to make a difference in the lives of families and children in the Greater Newark Area. At a recent celebration of his agency's many years of service to children, Tony well expressed the philosophy which guided his efforts: "Our community can only grow strong if optimism replaces despair and if hope outpaces fear," said Tony. "Our success or failure is not measured so much by how much money we raise each year, but how many people—our dedicated staff and our thousands of volunteers from across communities of faith—get involved to make a difference... Our success will be measured by how many broken spirits we heal; how many people we reach, and how many lives we touch and empower."

Mr. Peele was the Executive Director for CAC of NJ and each of its affiliate agencies. CAC of NJ is an administrative organization that serves as the umbrella for several autonomous but inter-related non-profit corporations and initiatives in the Greater Newark area. They include Protestant Community Centers, Inc. (PCCI), Friendly Fuld Neighborhood Centers, Inc. (FFNC), Cross Counter, Inc., and include programs and initiatives such as Project BABIES, early childhood education and Head Start, Job Service, after-school and summer programs, Quinlan Community School, Clinton WEED and SEED, Newark Reading is Fundamental, Wellspring II and the Suburban Cultural Educational Enrichment Program (SCEEP).

"Mr. Peele was a rare individual, one who inspired and motivated others to join the team to help children and families in innovative and substantive ways," says Dorothy Knauer, his associate of 25 years. "Board members, volunteers, staff, colleagues, individuals, friends and family are relating stories of his assistance in times of need, and testifying to the privilege of working together under his gifted, practical, action-oriented leadership. He had a wonderful sense of humor and a strong faith put into daily action. Tony lived life with zest and passion—from his family and friends, colleagues and anyone who came into contact with him. He was an enthusiast of many things including sports, music, art and classic cars. He made each person feel valued and special. Tony lived by example. He treated everyone with respect and high expectations. He gave so much to so many. Words cannot convey our feeling of loss. We will miss him, but his legacy and spirit will live on."

Growing up in public housing within the East Ward of Newark, Tony first got involved with PCCI in 1964 as one of the neighborhood kids participating in the summer and after school programs of the South Park-Calvary Presbyterian Church, where he and his family were active members. He began his professional affiliation with the organization back in 1970 when he joined Protestant Community Centers as their Recreation Director. Mr. Peele continued to lead and grow along with the organization established and supported by over 100 churches in Northern Jersey as an arm of the church and "a venture in faith". Throughout his life, Tony demonstrated a unique talent for recruiting, motivating and managing people from diverse backgrounds and walks of life—the thousands of volunteers needed to help run the programs.

Tony established the James Street Neighborhood House in 1970 and pioneered the Suburban Cultural Educational Enrichment Program (SCEEP), a model volunteer tutorial/mentoring program for Newark elementary students in partnership with suburban churches. In 1985, Tony expanded this concept to corporations and the two programs now serve 500 children weekly throughout Greater Newark, Essex and Morris County with more than 700 volunteers. The Neighborhood House, now known as PCCI's Center for Children, is a daily safe haven for fun and learning for 150 youngsters.

In 1981, Tony began directing several residential programs for youth. In 1985, he took over Friendly Fuld Neighborhood Centers (FFNC), one of the oldest settlement houses in the State. Friendly Fuld was

originally established in Newark's central ward by members of Temple B'nai Jeshurun as the Fuld Neighborhood House (1903) and Friendly Services, established by the African American Community (1926). In 1991, Tony established Project B.A.B.L.E.S., a 24 hour, 7 day per week traditional home for babies boarding in hospitals. His vision for this project began with nothing more than the donation of a dilapidated house. Tony called upon CAC's army of volunteers and churches, to convert this house into a warm sanctuary for these special infants.

"Tony Peele's dedication to making life better for Newark's children and their families has been an inspiration to all of us who worked with him. His remarkable passion for helping "the kids" will be greatly missed", said Gabriella Morris, Vice President, Community Resources and President, The Prudential Foundation, and Prudential Financial.

Tony served as a delegate in April, 1997, to the President's Summit for America's Future chaired by then retired General Colin Powell. The Summit featured CAC as a model for the delivery of social services that exemplified how America's future will be mentored, protected and nurtured.

In 1999, Mr. Peele, with support from the dedicated Board of Directors and financial backing by a diverse group of Funders, took another bold step in the revitalization of Newark's neighborhoods with the acquisition of the Feigenspan Property located at 710 Martin Luther King Blvd. Renovations began immediately and the Carriage House is now a Head Start and early childhood learning center. The main house is listed in the National Historic Register and will be preserved as such. In addition to retaining the historical integrity of the home, CAC of NJ will continue renovations on the interior to make the house attractive as both a stop on historical tours of Newark and to serve as a center where expanded community services will be available to residents of the Central Ward.

In addition to his role at CAC of NJ, Mr. Peele was an active Board member and former President of the BYO/Chad Foundation, a member of the Frost Valley Board of Directors and the Fleet Bank Advisory Board. He had many other affiliations and received many awards including the Men of Valor Award in recognition of his efforts on behalf of at risk youth.

Mr. Peele is survived by his wife, Carol, sons Tony C. and Ahren Johnson, his parents, Thomas and Ida Peele, sisters, Thomasina, and Sheryldina Peele, Kathy (Merrick) Harris, and brothers, Tommie (Vanessa), Barry, Eric, and the late Calvin Peele. Mr. Peele was also the caring first cousin of Betty Holloway and Mary (John) Sweat and is survived by a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, other relatives and friends and one granddaughter.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers,
donations be made to:
Community Agencies Corporation of NJ (CACoNJ)
25 James St. Newark NJ 07102
www.cacofnj.org









A Farewell to Our Son, Father, and Brother

Tony, you have always been and will always be the wind beneath our wings.

How do you say good-bye to the best father, son, brother and friend.....we'll all see you later.

Tony, we will always love you and we thank you for being an important part of our lives.

Farewell Tony, Farewell

A Farewell to My Soul Mate

Tony will live on forever in our memories and our hearts. Smile for him and try to help someone today, tomorrow and always.

Your soul mate forever, *Carol*

Our Family circle has been broken, another link gone from our chain;

But though we parted for awhile we know we will meet again.

Sometimes its hard to understand why certain things must be,

But, there is a reason for it all beyond our power to see.

The cover if life's book is closed for one we loved so well;

But the loving deeds of by-gone days are what the pages tell,

The blow was hard, the shock severe,

We never thought your death so near.

But only those who have lost can tell the pain if parting without farewell....

The family

Acknowledgement

With deep appreciation, our family wishes to acknowledge all acts of kindness, support, encouraging e-mails and words of wisdom and encouragements extended during our time of bereavement. God bless you.

Professional Services by:

Whighams Home for Services

580 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

Newark, New Jersey 07102

973-622-6872